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Title : Regarding initiatives by PM in peace process in Assam.

SHRI KIRIP CHALIHA (GUWAHATI): Sir, the Prime Minister had taken a bold initiative on the 14th of August by announcing suspension of army operations against the United Liberation Front of Assam, the ULFA. The move was all the more significant because, at that time, the entire country was on the tenterhooks with apprehension of another round of terrorist violence in the country. The move stunned everyone but many viewed this decision with cynicism and skepticism.

The ULFA has responded positively to the gesture of the Prime Minister. The Independence Day celebration in Assam also passed off peacefully. On the 18th of August, the ULFA has announced 'cessation of their operations' for the first time in the last 27 years giving rise to hope to the people of Assam that there may be a breakthrough or peace may come to Assam. At this hour, through you, Sir, I would like to appeal to all concerned to exercise restraint and strengthen the peace process in Assam.

Nobody wants Assam to continue as a killing field. Many lives had been lost. Many parents have lost their children. Many children have become orphans. Many households have been drowned with the sad cries of young widows. The vicious cycle of non-development, insurgency leading to further non-development must stop. The future generations of Assam must look with hope towards a new Assam in which they will have their rightful place in India.

There is one last point. The endless orgy of violence must stop and the dangerous dances of deaths must be replaced by the smiles of hope and aspirations of the younger generations.

SHRI B.K. HANDIQUE: Sir, I would associate myself with it.

DR. THOKCHOM MEINYA : Sir, I also want to associate with it.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Your name has been included.